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its decisions. And in this they can not help contrasting their conduct with that of the Orange Societies, whose oath or obligation as published by authority, says, So help me God I will support George the Third, so long as he shall support the Protestant Ascendancy. Thus, as the Belfast petition justly observes, anticipating rebellion.

A SUBSCRIBER TO KILLILEAGH PETITION.  
October 31st, 1813.

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To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

In your report of the Trial of Mr. R. Tennent, at Antrim Sessions, I think a part of my evidence on cross-examination is not candidly given, viz: "Witness would give up his own opinion to Mr. May and Mr. Verner." If your reporter had stated the questions which led to such an answer from me, perhaps you would not have marked it in *Italics*. Towards the close of my cross-examination, I was

asked did Mr. Tennent pass before or behind Mr. Verner, on his approaching Mr. May? I answered behind. Immediately on giving this answer, I began to fear it was erroneous, and on Counsel asking me if four or five persons had sworn Mr. Tennent advanced before Mr. Verner to Mr. May, would I not think myself more likely to be mistaken than them? To which I replied, that I would give up my opinion of that matter to them.

This, I feel confident, is the substance, and to the best of my recollection, the words of these two questions and answers. I might have used more appropriate words in my answer, but on such occasions, a witness cannot always adopt the most suitable; it would have been better if I had said, that on recollection, I believed I was mistaken, in saying Mr. Tennent passed behind Mr. Verner to Mr. May. If you notice this matter in your next Magazine, please do it in whatever way appears to you most proper. I am, Sirs, your most obedient servant,

JOHN S. FERGUSON.

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### COMMERCIAL REPORT.

The exultations carried to the very verge of extravagance on the late victories over the French in Germany, have produced a full share of the general effect on the mercantile world, and as large a degree of intoxication in them, as in any other part of the community. The cautious man will ponder before he lets in a full tide of joy, and will hesitate before he pronounces trade to be yet secure from the vicissitudes of war, and may fear another revolution of the wheel may disappoint hopes, now raised to so very high a degree. Sugar and other colonial produce have risen, in consequence of a renewal of the European continental market, as have also cottons, and other branches of manufacture suited to the expected demand. But although the market of the continent of Europe may be gained, yet a great part of the benefit is lost by the rupture with the United States of America, as cotton wool, and flaxseed, and other prime articles in manufactures, were imported in large quantities from America. Hence the cup is mixed, and war still infuses some poisonous ingredients. It is difficult to calculate on the alterations in trade, which the present change in the state of the war may produce. Speculation is busy in almost every line, and much money will be gained, as well as lost on the occasion. The Dutch always alive to their mercantile interests, have already sent a number of vessels to London with butter and bacon.

Another drawback to future prosperity in trade, arises from manufactures having advanced so rapidly in America, as to rival the British, since the indirect commencement of the quarrel with that country in 1808, so that even peace will not restore as extensive a command of that market, as was formerly enjoyed.

The attempts to restrain, through legislative interference, the artifices practised at mock auctions in London and various parts of England, prove the straits to which trade is reduced, and exhibit the dishonourable shifts to which recourse is had, as a partial and inadequate remedy for the evils of the war, by those who feel its pressure, and are not restrained by a sense of honour from evading their share of the distress, but to indemnify themselves, encroach on their neighbours by sham and fraudulent auctions.

It must be acknowledged, that trade has been in a most irregular, uncomfortable state for many years, and that the various classes of the community have been engaged in a toil-

some struggle to shift the burdens partially off themselves : the rise of prices, both of wages and profits, and of the necessities of life, have been continually fluctuating, and occasionally bearing hard on all classes in their turn. It is not to be expected that these agitations will at once subside from the effects of the late victories, or that even peace will produce a calm. High taxes, the bitter fruits of a twenty years warfare, will remain, to remind us of the impolicy and madness of statesmen, prosecuting a war, which now on account of its temporary success, is becoming increasingly popular. The tumult of victories drowns the calm voice of reason, and allows no time to calculate on the actual miseries, which have been produced, and of which we now feel the effects, and will long continue to feel them. In the present delirium of joy, they are forgotten, but our heavy bruises will be yet painfully remembered.

The plan to raise money by an emission of federative bills on the continent, payable six months after the treaty of peace, on the credit of the allied powers, clearly proves the very great difficulties of supporting the present financial system. Its effects in a political point of view, as showing the general weakness, are alarming. In a commercial point of view the effects will be distressing, by increasing in the great money market of London, the already oppressive mass of paper currency, as it is probable that a large portion of these federative bills will find their way to the Stock Exchange. However harsh it may sound, and how discordant soever the assertion may appear to the present high-raised hopes, the plan of thus suspending payments would have appeared strange to our ancestors, less initiated in the modern mysteries of financiering, and in the judgment of many, is a movement in advance towards national bankruptcy, to which the state of our depreciated currency proves we are advancing by no very slow strides.

The system of licensing the importation in neutral vessels, of articles the produce of the countries, with which we are at war, is for the present suspended. France and America will suffer several inconveniencies, but the injurious consequences will be reciprocal, and trade with us will suffer in perhaps an equal proportion. Through the channel of trading by licence, several articles of prime importance were received, and by it a partial vent was gained for the sale of some of our manufactures. Yet there were many abuses in the system. The power of the board of trade was unconstitutionally increased, and we could well spare the importations of the wines and brandies of France.

The undertakers of the Lagan navigation, have given notice of their intention to apply to parliament for the renewal for 21 years of the duty of fourpence per gallon, on spirits sold in certain districts contiguous to the line of canal, and which was called the Lagan duty, and will expire next year unless renewed. The principle appears to be a fair one, that a country benefited by a public work, ought to contribute by a local tax towards establishing and keeping it up, more especially when the tolls received by the company would be totally insufficient for the purposes, without public aid. A feeble opposition has been excited, and a petition against the measure has been proposed. Instead of refusing the limited grant as it stands at present, it appears more equitable farther to extend the duty of fourpence per gallon to other parts of the country, which enjoy advantages from the canal being improved, and rendered more efficient for the purposes of inland navigation. Yet it may be necessary for the land-owners, and the proprietors of mills, to watch the movements of the company, and the progress of the bill through parliament, that the powers of cutting up lands, and diverting water-courses, already sufficiently great, should not receive through inadvertence on the part of those concerned, any enlargement.

Exchange on London through this month has continued pretty steadily both in Belfast and Dublin, at about 3 per cent.

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### NATURALIST'S REPORT.

*From observations made in the neighbourhood of Belfast. Latitude 54° 35 min. 43 sec.  
Longitude 5° 58 min. 14 sec. West of London.*

Oct. 30, Saw three or four Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*), which continued to appear on the 31st, next day they were not to be seen.

Nov. 7, Saw a considerable flock of Fieldfares (*Furdus pilaris*).